

BROWNFIELDS NEW HAMPSHIRE Success Stories



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Former Pillsbury Mill, Tilton *Success in Brownfields Assessment Grant Program*

Overview

In 1998, town contractors conducted an environmental assessment and found waste chemicals, asbestos containing materials (ACMs), storage tanks, and a transformer presumed to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the site. The town removed all of these hazardous wastes from the property and then demolished the site buildings. In 2001, the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) conducted a Brownfields Assessment to further characterize the environmental conditions at the site. The assessment found site soils were mixed with ash containing lead and barium in concentrations that required the soil to be disposed as a hazardous waste.

At A Glance:

Site Location:

Downtown Tilton, N.H., on the Winnepesaukee River

Site Profile:

1.94-acre former late 18th century textile mill

Brownfields Financial Assistance:

\$40,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant

EPA Financial Assistance:

\$450,000 for site cleanup



Former mill property contaminated with lead and barium.

History

The property, located near the town center at 336 West Main Street, was first developed in 1868 as a textile mill and later as a shoe factory. After more than a century of various uses, the mill building was vacated in 1985. In 1995, the town of Tilton acquired the property through tax

foreclosure. In 1999, the mill building was demolished, and a portion of the demolition debris was burned, creating lead and barium contaminated ash, which mixed with on-site contaminated soils.

Site Assessment

At the request of the board of selectman, the DES Brownfields Program assisted the town in understanding the environmental issues associated with redevelopment of the site. In 2001, DES contracted with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. to perform a site assessment to better understand the nature and extent of the environmental conditions at the site. Lead and barium were detected in site soils at concentrations up to 6,800ppm and 5,520ppm, respectively. In 2003, DES requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region One (EPA) to conduct an emergency removal action. EPA completed soil excavation and removal during the summer of 2004, thereby preparing the site for future reuse.

Redevelopment Status

Realizing the dream of constructing a downtown riverfront park has been a long-term effort by the Tilton Selectmen, the Tilton Riverfront Park Committee, volunteers, and numerous civic groups and local businesses. Proposed redevelopment of the property includes construction of a small pavilion with a bell tower to house the bell from the former mill, American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible boat ramps, and three fishing piers. When completed, the site will provide a scenic waterfront community park, incorporating a sledding hill, a meadow for play, ice skating, swings, ADA compliant paths, and picnic areas, located near the center of this small New England town. Construction began in the fall of 2005, and will be completed during 2006.



Proposed Tilton Riverfront Park.

For further assistance please contact the:
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